



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029**

August 17, 2009

Mr. John Conway  
EIS Project Manager  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
Southeast  
NAS Jacksonville  
Ajax Street, Building 135N, P.O. Box 30  
Jacksonville, FL 32212-0030

Re: Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Dredging of Norfolk Harbor Channel, Norfolk and Portsmouth, Virginia (CEQ 20090238)

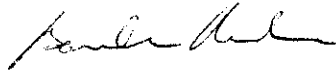
Dear Mr. Conway:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Proposed Dredging of Norfolk Harbor Channel, Norfolk and Portsmouth, Virginia. While the FEIS addressed EPA's comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), EPA would like to reiterate a comment made in the DEIS.

EPA requested that the Navy consider the use of an "environmental bucket" if and where the mechanical dredging is required, to help minimize potential release and exposure of aquatic populations to suspended contaminated materials. The Navy responded that the "Use of an environmental bucket for those areas requiring mechanical dredging is not envisioned for this project at this time. However, Navy would incorporate such equipment as necessary to comply with USACE/VDEQ permit requirements." EPA would like to emphasize its support of incorporating environmental controls into the mechanical dredging component of the project. EPA suggests that the Navy work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to build environmental engineering controls into the dredging process to minimize the potential release of suspended contaminated materials into the water column.

Thank you for providing EPA with the opportunity to review this project. If you have questions regarding these comments, the staff contact for this project is Karen DelGrosso; she can be reached at 215-814-2765.

Sincerely,



Barbara Rudnick  
NEPA Team Leader  
Office of Environmental Programs

